



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

# CONNECTIONS

## CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Jan-Feb 2022

1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 (775)-785-4153

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Bill Carlos weaving his magic to a group of first graders during one of the Arboretum school tours in 2018.

### Saying Goodbye Is Hard To Do!

This is a bittersweet issue to edit. Our Fearless Leader, Bill Carlos, is retiring at the end of January. And while we all wish him the very best wherever his journey takes him, Bill will be sorely missed.

It is a really hard thing to do; to express the impact one person has made on a community, in just a few short sentences. But, in this issue we will try to do just that. There was no shortage of folks wanting to share their memories, thoughts, and joy, about knowing Bill Carlos.

Thank you to everyone who shared their pictures and reminisces. You wrote this newsletter. I am honored to put this issue together on your behalf. It is you who make the connections between us at the Arboretum.

So, without further ado, here is our thank you card of sorts to our friend, our mentor, Bill Carlos.

Bev Treadway, Editor

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**A Thank You Card From All Of Us**

**Bill,**

**You are held so warmly and firmly in the hearts of our volunteers, Washoe County employees, and staff. The following comments and pictures are just small glimpses of our feelings and profound respect.**



### Goodbye Bill - Hello 2022!

By Denise Evans

As January comes to an end, we will be saying goodbye to a true Washoe County legend – Bill Carlos. I first met Bill when I started working for Washoe County Parks in 2007, and soon realized that we were also practically neighbors! Since then, I've gotten to know Bill even better after being promoted into the Volunteer Coordinator role in 2012 and moving into an office at Rancho San Rafael Park. When I first started in this position, I simply attended the volunteer training classes as an observer and was so impressed by how comprehensive Bill's presentations were, and the passion in which he had to share his knowledge.

My admiration for Bill continued to grow in each passing year, and I can't even begin to count the things I have learned from him. But of all things, the way in which he showed appreciation to everyone around him was what I most wanted to embody. He truly values every single volunteer who gives even an hour to the Arboretum. Over the years, Bill also imparted on me the significance of growing a community of people to steward the Arboretum and made it clear that I had an important role to play. With his support, I was always excited and empowered to take the volunteer program to the next level. I will have many fond memories of spring volunteer trainings, summertime appreciation lunches in Honey's Garden, Balloon Race breakfasts, and holiday parties – not to mention group volunteering days and garden tours. All wonderful memories and countless times thinking "I can't believe this is my job!"

Although I haven't been looking forward to Bill's inevitable retirement, I really am truly happy for him. In the coming months, I want to assure everyone that I will do my best to keep you informed of all the transitions the Arboretum is going through. We will work together to define a new volunteer program, and I'll be reaching out for your advice to help me along the way.

**We will be celebrating Bill and the New Year at an open house on Thursday, January 13 from 9am-11am in the Ranch House. All are welcome to attend! Stay tuned for a follow up email with more information.**



Above Left: Bill Carlos and Denise Evans in Lear Garden, hosting the annual Balloon Race Volunteer Breakfast.  
Above Right, Bill visiting with the volunteers at a past Christmas Volunteer Lunch at the Ranch House.



## Thank You's



December 8, 2021

Dear Bill,

On behalf of Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space, I wanted to provide you a letter of recognition for your 16 years of service to Washoe County and the citizens who live here.

During your tenure with Parks, you served as the Horticulturist for the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden. From 2005 to present, you have been a pleasure to work with. You are a dedicated employee, going above and beyond the call of duty to make the Arboretum a one-of-a-kind experience for visitors.

You have done several things over the years that have set the Arboretum up for future success. First, you truly embraced volunteers. You recognized how critical they were during the labor shortage of the great recession and helped solidify a strong volunteer base for the Arboretum. Through relationship building, you were instrumental in securing the endowment for the May Arboretum Society, which cannot be understated. Second, Washoe County's first greenhouse came to fruition. This was done during the economic recession when monies were tight and spirits were low. The greenhouse followed a vision of what is possible and your efforts towards that realization are much appreciated. Third, you were critical in the Level II accreditation of the Arboretum, and monitoring the collection through IRIS BG, an internationally recognized software platform. Through this the Arboretum can connect information globally and work towards effective conservation efforts for future generations.

Finally, you have done all of this with passion and grace. You treat people well and you are a kind, genuine person. Those traits are what have helped you become a successful leader. I have learned many things from you over the years, but what I've truly learned from you is gratitude and making sure others know how much they are appreciated. I cannot thank you enough for your exemplary efforts and commitment to make the Arboretum and Botanical Garden a special place for all who visit. I wish you much happiness and fulfillment in the next phase of your life, retirement! All my very best to you and your family.

Warm Regards,

Colleen Wallace Barnum

Park Operations Superintendent



Bill is one of the best bosses we've had! With his support, we've been able to develop so many amazing educational programs for the arboretum to support its growth. Through success and failure, he pushed us to keep going. Even in personal endeavors, Bill encouraged us to learn and develop ourselves. He provided access to opportunities we'd only dreamed of and helped us understand where we fit in an increasingly complex field. Though we find ourselves spread across the nation now, we can all agree that we loved our time working with Bill at the May Arboretum. We cannot thank Bill enough for his endless kindness and generosity!

Fondly, Rachel, Laura, Katie, Danielle, and Mandy. (AmeriCorps Arboretum Educators)



### Thank You's (cont.)



- ◆ **Bill Carlos, you always bring a smile to my face, affection to my heart and countless happy memories to my mind. Volunteering at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum with you at the helm has been one of the top experiences of my life. I have learned so much about gardening from you and you've made it a joy for me to give my time there. Thank you! You will be sorely missed and I do hope you will return and join in the volunteering. – Pat Leedy**
- ◆ **Bill was very inspiring, encouraging, and an absolute pleasure to be around. I will treasure the memories of our conversations AND enjoy making fruitcake from his family recipe! LOL – Catherine Allin Tollstrup**
- ◆ **Bill is one of those rare people who always handled chaos and turmoil while keeping a smile on his face and a steady grasp on how to deal with everything from broken irrigation systems to bobcats in the garden, no matter how inundated he was by paperwork, demands from the county or people wandering into his office (especially Arboretum volunteers eager to see what delicious goodies his lovely wife had sent to share with the volunteers!). Bill has been the heart of the Arboretum for so many years, and his dedication, kindness and wonderful sense of humor will be sorely missed. The only solace we can find is that I hear he plans to join us as a volunteer when possible. Best wishes to you and your family, Bill. - Lenita Powers**



Above Left: Bill teaching a pruning class in front of the Arboretum Office in 2019. Above Right: Bill and Catherine Allin Tollstrup at one of the many May Arboretum Society events.

- ◆ **Because of the avenue you provided to volunteer years ago in the Master Gardening program and now, over the last several years at the May Arboretum my life has been richer, Bill Carlos. You are one of the finest men that I have had the opportunity to know. - Susan Campau**
- ◆ **I've always listened to your explanations of how the plant world works. It filled a lot of gaps in my knowledge and inspired me to further explore the nature of this wonderful world of plants and trees. But I would say I was most inspired by your passion to improve the May Arboretum so it can be considered world class. – Danny Carrasco**
- ◆ **Bill, best wishes for a well-deserved retirement. Although I was only there a short time, it was obvious you cared a lot about the Arboretum and Rancho San Rafael. I learned a lot from you in the short time I was there. – Merna Meier**
- ◆ **Bill, because of you, the Arboretum now has a future of diversity, activities, and growth. Its place is solid within the community and the park. You grew friends for the Arboretum. Thank you. Enjoy your new life. – Tina Nappe**

## Thank You's (cont.)



- ♦ **Dear Bill, When I think of you, words like knowledgeable, caring, and approachable, come to mind. Our conversations have always been a pleasure and your genuine appreciation of the Arboretum volunteers has been apparent to all of us. Your direction will be sorely missed, but I trust you will still be seen around the arboretum after you "retire". - Darla Lee**
- ♦ **Bill: One of the things that has always fascinated me about plants, is their incredible ability to survive after they have been damaged in the wind, drastically pruned, or just plain forgotten about. Under your direction, the May Arboretum continued to survive during the bad economy and has come back stronger and more beautiful than ever! You are like the "Mighty Oak" shading the Volunteers against all the elements, so that we can all grow with the Arboretum! See you in the Gardens my friend! - Rod Dimmitt**
- ♦ **Bill, I have always been so happy to see and work with you since I took the Master Gardener training some 25 years ago, and then worked with you at the Arboretum. You will be missed. All the best to you and your family now and in the future. - Linda Good**
- ♦ **Bill, I will always be grateful to you for your kindness and support, the wonderful way you encouraged me to create walking programs, and to just try new things. This newsletter is just one of the results of that enthusiasm. It was always a dream of mine to become a docent and share my love of nature with others in new and different ways. You helped me do that. You are one of a kind, sir. We will miss you so very much but realize that change is inevitable. Enjoy your new adventures and know that you have left a marvelous legacy of love. -Bev Treadway**



Above Left: Pruning Tips Class with Bill.



Above Right: Bill, Ed Kleiner and Phil Brazier hold the original Arboretum sign that hung from a wood structure at the west entrance (the only entrance to the Arboretum at the time).



Opposite: Bill and Anne Simone manning the refreshments in front of the Arboretum Office.



### Thank You's (cont.)



- ◆ **Bill, as a volunteer and as a journalist, I've learned so much from you over the years. Thanks for sharing your knowledge, and for your sense of humor. You've always been so caring about the volunteers who work for you and that makes us all feel like family. Have a great retirement, but we all hope to see you in the gardens this spring! – Susan Mullen**
- ◆ **Thank you, Bill, for your stewardship of the Arboretum, and thank you for your kindness to new volunteers and for helping everyone feel welcomed and special. Best wishes for your well-earned retirement! - Victoria Nilson**
- ◆ **Ten years ago, recently widowed, I came to Bill's office looking for a focus and a place to belong. Bill was accepting and positive that I could be helpful in the arboretum, no matter how little energy I had. That attitude was what drew me to volunteer then and now. I will truly miss Bill but know his spirit will remain in everything and everyone he touched at the arboretum. - Chris Veach**
- ◆ **Bill, get out there and enjoy life to its fullest after retirement. You can get up in the morning and while you are enjoying your coffee in your jammies look out the front window and laugh at all the neighbors driving off to their jobs. There are lots of beautiful gardens in the world just waiting to be explored, go for it. Thanks for all you have done at the Arboretum. – Susan Lester**
- ◆ **Congratulations on retirement and a job well done. As a volunteer, I've watched the Arboretum mature for nearly 15 years and have seen all the improvements made during your dedicated stewardship, and have a long list of memories. Some favorite things that come to mind are: carving pumpkins and long lines of families dressed up for Halloween, coming to the Pumpkin Walk, kids planting daffodils with volunteers, the beautiful Dragon Lights Chinese Lantern Festival, Art in the Park and Music in the Park, families coming to help on 'Clean Up the Park Day', kids reading maps and searching to find garden gnomes, and the many wedding events. Because of the installation of fencing, the many memorial gardens, benches, and trees are better protected. Sharing your vast knowledge to train volunteers to shoulder work that the limited number of employees couldn't get to, has benefited so many of us. Thank you for your gracious attitude to the volunteers. Most of all, thanks for the memories. May they continue to grow. Cheers to Retirement! – Becky Conrad**
- ◆ **Enjoy your retirement, Bill, the best is yet to come. See ya later! - Kass Kirkham**



Above Left: Volunteers Sharon, Becky, and Pat. Above Right: Bill the Scarecrow at a Halloween Walk.



Clockwise from above left: Bill with Lawrie Kirkham and Connie Douglas at a Halloween Walk; Volunteers attending a training class in the Ranch House; One of the many pruning classes Bill has taught; Volunteers getting tips in front of the bridge to Honey's Garden; A group shot of some of the gardening crew; Group volunteers doing "jazz hands" after a mulching project.



### A Goodbye Letter From Bill Carlos



*Dear Volunteers,*

*After nearly 17 years managing the May Arboretum and 21 years at the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, I will be retiring on January 31, 2022. It will be bitter-sweet to leave as the Arboretum is on track to grow, both as a facility and financially, but my time here is complete. I want to sincerely thank all of you for your time, passion, dedication and support. Please know that you have made a huge impact on the gardens and become a central part of the Arboretum operations. My minimal staff does not have the time to do everything that you do. I am very proud of your work and I frequently let visitors, managers and friends know how valuable you are to us. Along with positively impacting the gardens with your added touches and care, you have also touched my life. You have demonstrated year after year to me and my family, and others, what it means to have the spirit of volunteerism. You have given new meaning to the word volunteer with your weekly unselfish acts and generosity, care and kindness. I am sincerely humbled and overwhelmed by your achievements, and your work never goes unnoticed. Our staff, Denise, myself and others are eternally grateful and appreciative as well as the May Foundation, the May Arboretum Society, and the nearly 100,000 visitors that come to the Arboretum annually. Please keep up the good deeds and work. Although I will be retiring, I am sure I will be joining you on Tuesdays or Thursdays with my pruners in-hand and bucket beside me. It will truly be an honor and privilege to work beside you.*

*Thank you again, and I will see you in the gardens!*

*Bill*

## Upcoming Events



A deliciously tasty and interactive exhibition that takes you on a journey through the history and manufacturing of candy, chocolates, and sweet treats. At the May Museum from January 15 to May 15, 2022.

[www.washoecounty.gov/parks/maycenterhome/museum/eventcalendar.php](http://www.washoecounty.gov/parks/maycenterhome/museum/eventcalendar.php)

Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden

# CABIN FEVER

For Ages 4-10  
Time: 10-11am  
Cost: \$3 donation/session or \$15 for full series

Looking for a fun way to get outside this winter? Join us to learn about nature in the winter! Each session will feature a short lesson, a story, an indoor activity, and some guided outdoor exploration.

December 2: Winter Trees  
December 16: A Snowy Owl Story  
January 6: Go on a Color Hunt  
January 20: The Mitten  
February 3: Ice is Nice  
February 17: Snowflakes are Sew Cool

Reservations Required!  
Contact the arboretum educator to register  
@775-785-4153

Wilbur D. May ARBORETUM

## M.A.S. Virtual Learning Series Workshop



This workshop is presented by Laura Robertson.

**Location:** Zoom video conferencing  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 25  
**Time:** 5:30pm to 6:30pm (Pacific Time)  
**Cost:** No charge, and open to the public

### Explorers & Seekers of Nevada

Nevada is a hotbed of ancient findings, but who are the people who sought, found, and brought such findings to light? Their efforts and hard work resulted in our gain, allowing us to learn much about the rich culture and history of our area and state. Join us to learn more about these explorers and seekers--their discoveries, their interests, and the people themselves.

**Registration closes at 3:00pm on the day of the presentation.**

See the MAS website for details.

[www.mayarboretumsociety.org/lectures--workshops.html](http://www.mayarboretumsociety.org/lectures--workshops.html)





- ♦ Jan 1– New Year’s Day
- ♦ Jan 6 - Cabin Fever  
“Go On a Color Hunt”  
10am-11am
- ♦ Jan 13, 9-11am  
Bill Carlos Goodbye Open  
House for Volunteers
- ♦ Jan 20 - Cabin Fever  
“The Mitten”
- ♦ Jan 25-MAS Virtual  
Workshop on Zoom

## Activity Dates To Look Forward To!

### January 2022

SUN	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### February 2022

- ♦ Feb 3 - Cabin Fever  
“Ice is Nice” 10am-11am
- ♦ Feb 14—Valentine’s Day
- ♦ Feb 17—Cabin Fever  
“Snowflakes are Sew  
Cool” 10am-11am.



SUN	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

## Getting Involved with Volunteering

By Bev Treadway

It's been 5 years since I first started volunteering at the Arboretum. I went in to my first volunteer class with the thought of spending some time helping in the gardens. I learned about boosting my soil, greenhouse procedures, pruning an assortment of shrubs and trees, and I gained a new passion for school tours. By the last class, I also understood the foresight the city had to support the creation of such a beautiful place.

I also made new friends, have met a lot of people and had a lot of fun: by helping with Dragon Lights, in repotting lavender plants in the greenhouse, with Little Sprouts and Cabin Fever, by painting gnomes for the Gnome Scavenger Hunt, in giving flower presentations and doing group gardening events. Oh, yes, and I love sharing all of the happenings at the Arboretum by way of this newsletter.

The ways you can be a part of the activities at the Arboretum are as endless as your creativity.

To learn more about volunteering at the Arboretum, you can contact:

Denise Evans: [devans@washoecounty.gov](mailto:devans@washoecounty.gov)

Rachel Dunn: [rdunn@washoecounty.gov](mailto:rdunn@washoecounty.gov)

Or go the M.A.S. website : [www.mayarboretumsociety.org](http://www.mayarboretumsociety.org)



Left: Kass Kirkham putting the finishing touches on her gnome. Center: Bill teaching a pruning skills class for the gardening volunteer team. Right: A class in lavender wand making at the annual MAS Lavender Day festivities.



Entering the [Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden](#), you can sense that there is something special here. With a diverse plant community, beautiful garden layouts, and foliage changing with the seasons, it really is the jewel of Reno, Nevada! We have opportunities for all ages to explore, learn, celebrate, and get involved. Take a look around and see what peaks your interests. Your next outdoor adventure awaits at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden!

